TRENDS

ASSOCIATION
OF AMERICAN
RAILROADS

A325-2
10/20/88

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, October 13, 1988 -- Freight traffic on major U.S. railroads during the week ended October 8 totaled 19.7 billion ton-miles, up 0.3 percent from the 19.7 billion carried in the comparable week of 1987, the Association of American Railroads reported today.

Cumulative volume for the first 40 weeks of 1988 was an estimated 767.5 billion ton-miles carried, up 6.8 percent from the comparable period of last year.

Carloadings originated in the week ended October 8 totaled 450,706, up 1.0 percent from the corresponding week of last year, but down 2.4 percent from the preceding week. Compared with last year, carloadings originated were down 1.6 percent in the East, but up 3.8 percent in the West.

Compared with the corresponding week of last year, 12 of the 20 major commodity groups decreased. Loadings of chemical and allied products were up 2,654 cars (10.1 percent); coal loadings increased by 2,241 cars (1.8 percent); but grain was down 2,277 cars (6.7 percent). Fourteen of the 20 commodity groups decreased from the preceding week.

Piggyback

Piggyback traffic for the week ended October 1 totaled 127,276 trailers and/or containers, up 8.6 percent from the comparable week of 1987.

The cumulative volume of TOFC/COFC traffic for the first 39 weeks of the year was 4,293,845 trailers and/or containers, up 5.7 percent from 1987.

(more)

Following are carloadings of major railroads, by commodity groups, for the week ended 10/8/88:

	Loadings in Week ended October 8, 1988		Change from Corresponding Week 1987			Change from Preceding Week	
	Cars		Cars	Percent		Cars	Percent
Grain	31,739	D	2,277	6.7	I	1,224	4.0
Other farm products	3,982	D	855	17.7	I	490	14.0
Metallic ores	20,257	D	1,534	7.0	D	2,447	10.8
Coal	128,711	I	2,241	1.8	D	924	0.7
Crushed stone, gravel and sand	19,471	I	1,178	6.4	D	553	2.8
Nonmetallic minerals	11,233	I	1,439	14.7	I	144	1.3
Grain mill products	10,803	D	833	7.2	D	193	1.8
Food and kindred products	11,405	D	132	1.1	D	267	2.3
Primary forest products	9,441	D	1,372	12.7	D	604	6.0
Lumber and wood products except furniture	6,638	D	1,126	14.5	D	1,232	15.7
Pulp, paper and allied products	11,657	D	569	4.7	D	683	5.5
Chemicals and allied products	28,836	I	2,654	10.1	I	556	2.0
Petroleum products	5,259	I	603	13.0	I	76	1.5
Stone, clay and glass products	11,718	D	217	1.8	D	323	2.7
Coke	6,109	I	853	16.2	I	245	4.2
Metals and products	9,281	D	518	5.3	D	1,998	17.7
Motor vehicles and equipment	21,282	I	319	1.5	D	1,186	5.3
Waste and scrap materials	9,532	D	297	3.0	D	606	6.0
Forwarder and shipper association traffic	2,575	D	473	15.5	D	69	2.6
All other carloads	90,777	I	5,317	6.2	D	2,875	3.1
Total Cars Loaded	450,706	I	4,401	1.0	D	11,225	2.4
Corresponding week of 1987	446,305						

	1988	1987	% Change
Total Cars Loaded (40 weeks)	16,987,272	16,215,210	I 4.8
Estimated revenue ton-miles (in billions):			
39 weeks ended October 1	747.8	699.3	I 6.9
Week ended October 8	19.7	19.7	I 0.3
40 Weeks cumulative	767.5	718.9	I 6.8

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